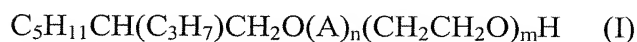


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10: (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended): A composition comprising an alkoxylate of the formula  
(I):



wherein

A is propyleneoxy or buteneoxy,

n is a number in the range from 1 to 1.8,

m is a number in the range from 3 to 14,

and one or more additives,

wherein propyleneoxy or buteneoxy units are firstly joined the alcohol radical,  
followed by ethyleneoxy units, wherein the composition is selected from surfactant  
compositions for the cleaning of hard surface, humectant compositions, cosmetic  
compositions, adhesive compositions, leather degreasing compositions, compositions for  
metalworking, compositions for food industry, compositions for water treatment,  
compositions for paper industry, fermentation compositions, mineral processing compositions  
and emulsions for polymerizations.

Claims 12-13: (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in the formula (I), the radical  $C_5H_{11}$  has the meaning  $n-C_5H_{11}$ ,  $C_2H_5CH(CH_3)CH_2$  or  $CH_3CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_2$ , or mixtures of two or more of these compounds.

15. (Currently Amended): An alkoxylate of the formula (I)



wherein

A is ~~propyleneoxy or~~ buteneoxy,

n is a number in the range from 1 to 1.8,

m is a number in the range from 3 to 14,

wherein ~~propyleneoxy or~~ buteneoxy units are firstly joined the alcohol radical, followed by ethyleneoxy units.

16. (Previously Presented): The alkoxylate as claimed in claim 15, wherein, in the formula (I), n is a number in the range from 1.3 to 1.7 and m is a number in the range from 3 to 12.

17. (Previously Presented): The alkoxylate as claimed in claims 15, wherein, in the formula (I), the radical  $C_5H_{11}$  has the meaning  $n-C_5H_{11}$ ,  $C_2H_5CH(CH_3)CH_2$  or  $CH_3CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_2$ , or mixtures of two or more of these compounds.

18. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the alkoxylate as claimed in claim 15, comprising reacting an alcohol of the formula  $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2OH$  first with ~~propylene~~ butylene oxide and then with ethylene oxide under alkoxylation conditions,

wherein the alkoxylation is carried out in the presence of a double-metal cyanide compound as catalyst.

19. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the alcohol of the formula  $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2OH$  is obtained by alkaline dimerization of valeraldehyde to give an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde, and subsequent hydrogenation.

20. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the alkoxylate of claim 15, wherein the composition is selected from emulsifier compositions, foam regulator compositions, wetting agent compositions, cleaning compositions, wetting compositions, coating compositions, adhesive compositions, leather degreasing compositions, humectant compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions or crop protection compositions.

21. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising an alkoxylate prepared by the process of claim 18, wherein the composition is selected from emulsifier compositions, foam regulator compositions, wetting agent compositions, cleaning compositions, wetting compositions, coating compositions, adhesive compositions, leather degreasing compositions, humectant compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions or crop protection compositions.

22. (Previously Presented): A method of cleaning a hard surface, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with the hard surface.

Claim 23: (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented): A method of degreasing leather, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with leather.

25. (Previously Presented): A method of processing metal, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with metal.

26. (Previously Presented): A method of treating water, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with a supply of water.

27. (Previously Presented): A method of processing paper, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with a paper or pulp source.

28. (Previously Presented): A method of processing minerals, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with a mineral source.

29. (Previously Presented): A method of polymerization, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with one or more monomers.

30. (Previously Presented): A method of wetting a surface, comprising contacting the composition of claim 11 with the surface.